

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA ON CUBA: ITS HISTORY, REVOLUTION, EXAMPLE

1. AT A RECEPTION GIVEN FOR VISITING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA BY FIDEL CASTRO ON AUGUST 18, THE MEXICAN EXECUTIVE HAD THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:
2. "WHAT HAPPENED AT THE END OF THE LAST CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESENT WAS NOT FOR CUBA THE REALIZATION OF A SOVEREIGN LIFE. THE CAPITULATION OF AN OLD EMPIRE IN THE FACE OF A NEW SUPREMACY DID NOT IMPLY FOR THIS (CUBAN) PEOPLE THE CONSUMMATION OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE BUT RATHER THE BEGINNING OF A DOMINATION, THE SIMPLE SUBSTITUTION OF ONE MASTER FOR ANOTHER."
3. "THERE IS NO MILITARY, ECONOMIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL POWER CAPABLE OF CONQUERING PEOPLE DETERMINED TO EXIST, TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN ORGANIZATION, AND TO PRESERVE AND ENRICH THEIR CULTURE."
4. "THE CUBANS HAD TO FACE SIMULTANEOUSLY THE INTERNAL OPPOSITION OF ANTI-NATIONAL FORCES, ARMED AGGRESSION, AND UNJUST DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC BLOCKADES IMPOSED FROM ABROAD AND WHICH HAVE TODAY BEEN DEFEATED, THANKS TO THE

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INCREASING POLITICAL MATURITY OF LATIN AMERICA, BUT

FUNDAMENTALLY DUE TO THE HISTORIC PERSISTENCE OF THIS NATION TO DEFEND ITS SELF-DETERMINATION." "THE LEGITIMACY OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION LIES IN THAT IT TRIUMPHED, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF THE IMMENSE MAJORITY OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE BECAUSE IT IS BACKED BY THE CUBAN PEOPLE AND BECAUSE IT IS BEING CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE." "MEXICO, WHICH HAS AN UNLIMITED RESPECT FOR THE MANDATE OF MAJORITY, NEVER (IN THE PAST) AND WILL NEVER IN THE FUTURE ABANDON (DEJAR SOLO) THE CUBAN PEOPLE."

5. "FROM THE TIME IT WAS PROPOSED, WE CONSIDERED THE RESOLUTION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH THE CUBANS ILLEGAL AND, THEREFORE, THAT ANY COUNTRY MIGHT HAVE RENEWED THEM WITHOUT THE NEED TO OBTAIN A NEW RESOLUTION." "IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE HIGHER GOALS NOW PROPOSED FOR COLLABORATION AMONG THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA SHOULD BE PURSUED WITHIN A NEW ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH HAS BEEN LIQUIDATED FOREVER COLONIZATION AND THE MANIPULATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE MAJORITY VOTE OF SUBJECT (SOMETIDOS) PEOPLES MUST NO LONGER SERVE TO UNDERWRITE THE AMBITIONS OF THE POWERFUL COUNTRIES FOR DOMINATION." "LATIN AMERICA IS NO LONGER BETWEEN LIBERTY AND FEAR. YOKES ARE THROWN OFF IN THE MEASURE THAT NATIONS UNITE FOR THEIR LIBERATION."

6. "THE CUBAN REVOLUTION, THE STRUGGLE OF VIETNAM, THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE, AMONG MANY OTHERS, UNQUESTIONED TESTIMONY THAT OUR TIME IS ONE OF CHANGE, OUR EPOCH THAT OF THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE THIRD WORLD, AND OUR TASK THAT OF CONSTRUCTION OF A MORE JUST, A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY."

7. "HERE HAS BEEN FORGED AN UNARGUABLE LESSON WHICH THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD MUST NOT FORGET IN THIS NEW STAGE OF HISTORY. THIS IS THAT THREATS AND PRESSURES CAN BE OVERCOME IF THERE IS A TRUE WILL TO RESIST ENERGETICALLY AND WITH RESOLUTION." "THE VERDICT IN WHICH FIDEL CASTRO TRUSTED 22 YEARS AGO HAS BEEN RENDERED. HISTORY NOT ONLY HAS ABSOLVED HIM BUT ALSO HAS BESTOWED UPON HIM THE RARE PRIVILEGE OF BEING ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL PROTAGONISTS."

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8. COMMENT: ECHEVERRIA'S WORDS MUST HAVE FALLEN MOST GRATEFULLY UPON CASTRO'S EARS. ECHEVERRIA, WHILE PRAISING THE CUBAN REVOLUTION, DID NOT FAIL TO TAKE FULL CREDIT FOR MEXICO'S POSITION ON CUBA OVER THE PAST DOZEN YEARS, CULMINATING IN THE GOM EFFORTS BEFORE AND DURING THE RECENT SAN JOSE CONFERENCE. THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT MOST MEXICANS WOULD SUPPORT ECHEVERRIA'S VIEWS, THOUGH SOME

MIGHT ARGUE THAT THE FULL AND FREE EXPRESSION OF "MAJOR
MANDATE" HAS YET TO BE ATTAINED, IN CUBA OR -- ONLY IN
SOMEWHAT LESSER DEGREE -- IN MEXICO.
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